

GUIDE TO THE SO9 TUPINAMBA FILE

[This file contains specific data on the extinct Tupi-Guarani-speaking Tupinamba nation, including data on the Caete, Potiguara, Tamoyo, Timimino and Tupinikin tribes. They occupied extensive strips of the Atlantic seacoast of Brazil from southern São Paulo north to the mouth of the Amazon River. They subsisted mainly by slash-and-burn agriculture, but hunting and gathering were also important, and fishing yielded the bulk of the food at certain seasons. The staple crops were bitter manioc and maize. The bulk of the information comes from the writings of early French and Portuguese explorers and missionaries, with some recent studies being based on museum specimens. Tupinamba culture was extinct by the end of the seventeenth century.

The Tupinamba file contains 26 sources, eight sources (2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 19, 22 and 26) being translations from the French, eight sources (9, 14, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21 and 25) being translations from the Portuguese, one source (15: Anchieta) being a translation from the Latin, and the remainder being in English. The original source selection and most of the translations of sources 1 to 18 were made by Alfred Métraux, the foremost modern expert on the Tupinamba. He was also the author of sources 19 (through study of material culture), 22 (a history of Tupi migrations) and 24. Since the file was processed in 1950 and 1951, before the advent of modern copying processes and before the publication of the Outline of World Cultures, the file slips are typewritten rather than being photographic images of the book pages, and there are no OWC alphameric codes in the headings. 24: Métraux

is a summary of the culture and should be read first. Most of the data (almost all of it first-hand) refer to the period ca. 1550-ca. 1650. Source 11: Vaz de Caminha however dates from 1500 and is the first eyewitness account of the natives of Brazil. The major accounts are sources 1, 2, 4, 5, and 9. 1: Staden is a very comprehensive account of the culture written by a sailor who was a captive for 9 months in 1547. 2: Thevet (supplemented by 3: Thevet) is probably the best source on the Tupinamba, the information dating from a visit in 1555. 4: Léry supplemented by 5: Léry) is another classic source on much of Tupinamba culture, based on material dating from 1557. 9: Cardim, by a longtime resident in the area, derives from the period 1580-1600 and is an outstanding source on the ethnology. The other sources in the file partially reinforce the data in these sources and fill in gaps in the material. Altogether, the file as it now stands probably contains all the original and useful material that ever will be available on the Tupinamba. The researcher should be aware of the geographical focus of the materials (from Maranhão to São Paulo), although Tupinamba culture was remarkably homogeneous over the area. In addition, none of the original authors were trained observers in the modern social science sense and researchers should be cautious in evaluating the data. However, it is a good file for comparative purposes, providing care is taken in using the materials.]